

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 14, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOOT made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 61.]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the petition of Frederick A. Beelen, secretary of the United States legation to Chili, praying to be allowed the difference between his present salary, \$1,500 per annum, and \$2,000 per annum, from July 1, 1855, to January 1, 1857, have had the same under consideration, and now report:

That, having carefully examined the report heretofore made in this case by this committee, in connexion with the facts set forth in the accompanying papers, and concurring fully in the views presented in that report, hereby adopt the same, and report back the bill for the relief of the petitioner which accompanied that report, with a recommendation that it be passed.

IN THE SENATE, FEBRUARY 28, 1857.

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the petition of Frederick A. Beelen, secretary of the United States legation to Chili, praying to be allowed the difference between his present salary, \$1,500 per annum, and \$2,000 per annum, from July 1, 1855, to January 1, 1857, have had the same under consideration, and now report:

It appears from the petition, that in August, 1854, Mr. Beelen was appointed secretary to the legation of the United States in Chili, with a salary of \$2,000 per annum. That he repaired to his post at once, and continued in the performance of its duties up to January 1, 1857. That some time in September, 1855, he received a communication from the Department of State, informing him that, under the construction given by the Attorney General to the act of March 1, 1855, "To remodel the diplomatic and consular systems of the United States," his salary as secretary of legation at Santiago would be only at the rate of \$1,500 per annum from the 1st of July of that year. That the law reducing his salary thus had the effect of an *ex post facto* law upon him. That the lowest cost of reaching his post from the United

States is \$500, and the same amount paid in returning home makes a sum equal to two-thirds of the salary for a whole year. That he is the only officer in the diplomatic service of the government whose salary was reduced by the act above named, and prays that he may be allowed the difference between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per annum, the amount of salary attached to his office when he accepted it, from July 1, 1855, when the act referred to went into effect, to January 1, 1857.

The statements of the petition are fully sustained by a letter from the Department of State, dated February 23, 1857, in which the Secretary adds: "That the reduction of Mr. Beelen's salary from \$2,000 to \$1,500, whilst he was at a remote capital, and in the actual discharge of his official duties, has always been regarded by this department as a case of peculiar hardship, which was aggravated by the fact that it was not in the power of the Secretary of State to inform Mr. Beelen of the construction placed by the Attorney General upon the law affecting his salary until after the law was in actual operation, of which Mr. Beelen could not, therefore, be aware, until from fifty to sixty days after the reduction of salary took place."

The committee are of opinion that, under the peculiar circumstances of this case, the relief asked for is reasonable and should be allowed. They therefore report a bill in his favor, and recommend its passage.